

AUTUMN 1947

# JOURNAL OF

# CLINICAL Pastoral Work



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VOLUME 1-2

1947-1948 1947

74347

v. 1-2

1947-49

# JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PASTORAL WORK

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**PURPOSE:** The aim of the Journal is to bring together descriptive accounts of pastoral work with individuals and groups, in parish, hospital and prison, and to encourage parish clergy and chaplains to share their understanding and methods.

To demonstrate the use of concise note-taking in clarifying the pastoral process and in providing a factual basis for pastoral work.

To clarify, from specific pastoral situations, both the religious needs of the parishioner and the principles of relating to other professions also concerned with a ministry to people; especially medicine, social work, nursing, and education.

Not only does the clergyman have a relationship with other professions, but he knows that they have discovered facts concerning the needs and resources of people which are useful in pastoral work. An effort will be made to show the values of these insights, not in imitation of these other professions, but as a means of further strengthening the role and relationship of the pastor.

The Church is responsible not only for the care of the sick and distressed but also for the care of the adequate and wholesome person. It is hoped that clinical accounts of this work may throw light on the elements of normal Christian living.

Of growing interest is the use of clinical pastoral training to help the theological student make real in understanding and practice the insights of his theological education. The Journal will consider the principles and methods of clinical training, the nature of the supervision involved, and its relation to other elements in the curriculum.



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## SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON THE LOSS OF FAITH

*The Reverend Ernest E. Bruder, Protestant Chaplain*

*Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D. C.*

"I feel as though I was losing my faith! God used to be so real to me. My faith was so beautiful! Now I'm terribly afraid of losing it."

These words, spoken by a 48-year-old woman who had been in the hospital for a little over a year, express vividly a problem which the pastor frequently hears. This article will attempt to offer some considerations which have come out of clinical experience and which may prove helpful in dealing with similar difficulties.

Frequently it is in such crisis experiences as illness that one sees most clearly the factors which have brought about the difficulty. Seldom can they be so readily observed in the routine daily experiences. It may be, as some have already noted, that the illness is in itself the individual's attempt to solve personal difficulties which are beyond his immediate awareness. This is frequently the case! And from such "problem solving" experiences one can often learn much which will enable the discerning pastor to help those who are in trouble.

The writer had occasion to interview, fairly frequently, a patient whose background provided many illuminating insights into what led to the loss of his faith. Some of the essential facts, which are related as he worked through the circumstances of his illness, show in bold relief the importance of the emotional aspects of what might at first glance be mistaken for a purely intellectual problem.

This man was born in Russia. A short time before his birth, his father deserted his mother and his brother, who was then about two years old. It seems, according to the patient, that the fear of being drafted into the Russian army and the attractions of the United States as a land of opportunity were sufficient incentives for the father to evade his parental responsibilities. When the boy was about two years old, he was subject to another desertion: this time his mother left for America to look for her husband. He was left in the care of his parental grandparents. At about this time, Russia was at war with Germany, and the patient has vivid memories of having to flee for his life and being terrified by the cannon-fire which he could hear in the distance. During this period, he found it necessary to become a beggar, going from house to house asking for food and money. He also remembers having a marked conflict of feeling toward his parents: on the one





nd, he would hate them for their desertion and would envision getting  
en, and on the other hand, he would sit for hours "and cry and wish  
that I could be in my father's arms."

After the Armistice, his parental grandparents died, follow-  
g which the patient and his brother were taken over by a parental  
cle and aunt. The aunt apparently favored the brother. A short time  
llowing the death of the grandparents, she came to the house where  
e two boys were living, which was the house originally owned by the  
andmother, and took the brother to live with them. This left the  
atient, who was by this time seven or eight, alone in the house with  
place to go and no one to look after him. It was about this time  
at the patient began to wonder what was wrong with him that he was  
completely shut out of everyone's life. He felt "resentful, cynical,  
tter, and an urge came over me to kill someone or get even. But as  
oon as I would have these feelings I also felt 'What's the use. Who  
n I to complain? Maybe I'm supposed to be left behind like this.'"  
After several days of begging through the streets and coming home each  
ight to live in the cold house, his maternal grandmother found out  
out the situation and came to get him. Instead of taking him to her  
ome, she put him in an orphanage. He says "I just wasn't able to  
figure out why I had to go to an orphanage, because after all I wasn't  
n orphan. I really had a mother and a father, and this seemed very  
range to me. I used to cry." After several weeks he ran away from  
the orphanage, but his grandmother returned him. He ran away again,  
nd this time his grandmother decided to be his custodian.

The next few years are meager in detail. We know that he  
as brought up in the Greek Orthodox Church and that he took his religion  
airly seriously. From independent sources, it was learned that even  
as a child he was quite religious.

When the patient was about twelve years of age, the grand-  
arents received a letter from a cousin in America, which stated that  
the father wanted his sons with him.

They made the trip, only to discover that the father had not  
ent for them and that they were not welcome. In the meantime, the  
ather had taken a common-law wife and had three children by her. This  
stepmother hated the patient bitterly and tried her best to get rid of  
im by making things very unpleasant in the home. Not too long after  
is arrival in the United States, the boy relates that the father took  
im into the city, ostensibly to visit his cousin. While in the city,  
he father purchased train tickets for the ride, gave the boy his, and  
old him to wait on the train while he went off to get some cigars.  
He did not come back.





Following this experience, the boy eventually sought for and found his mother. She had in the meanwhile obtained a divorce and remarried. She was living in a distant city and, with her husband, was operating a small store. He began to work for his mother and step-father and soon found himself busy from early morning to late at night working in the store. This he didn't mind too much, but when he was never paid more than a pittance for his services, he became resentful and left his mother. From then on, he was on his own.

It was not too long after these experiences, and when the patient was about fourteen or fifteen years of age, that he met a kindly old man, an atheist, who proved to me scientifically that there was no God." Little is known of this man, except that he was interested in the boy and sought to help him.

The subsequent history prior to the illness can be covered very briefly. These were the depression years! His vocational history was spasmodic, and his average wage that of a laborer. Finally, in 1934, he joined the Navy and did very well; after some years attaining the rank of Chief.

It is exceedingly interesting to note, during this first period in the Navy, that he received a letter from his father, stating that the stepmother had died and, if he would only come home, the father would turn the farm completely over to him. In spite of the fact that the patient had stated that he would never return home, it only took him three days to arrange for his discharge from the Navy, and he was on the train home. After he arrived on his father's farm, the father fell on his neck; cried a great deal, apologized for all he had done, and pleaded with him to take over the farm and to run it as he wanted to. To the patient, however, this was buying his affection. It was as though my father had said to me: "I know you think I don't love you, but here is \$100.00 now -- why don't you forget it." The fact that the patient read into his father's gesture this mercenary attitude infuriated him, but such fury was never shown to his father. The only thing I said to him was, "No, I did not want the farm," and the very day that I arrived I left." Apparently the patient hurt his father very deeply that day, and he states, "I just can't seem to get it out of my mind. Probably I should have taken it from the old man, but after all I didn't want his home. I want a home of my own. I don't want anything from him. I want to get everything that I can get on my own hook."

Shortly before hospitalization, the patient was in the Navy serving in the Pacific. He had just been promoted to the rank of Warrent Officer over his own vigorous protestations that he did not feel qualified to carry out the responsibilities of the job. Then he very



ckly married a Jewish girl, after knowing her only a few days (they met while he was on furlough in Australia). Following his marriage, developed marked feelings of guilt, as a result of his sexual in-  
quacy in the marital relationship and his previous history of mas-  
bation. He was hospitalized after talking about suicide. Then he  
two attempts at suicide -- the second one being very nearly suc-  
ful when he slashed his wrists and throat. He spoke quite freely  
this suicidal attempt to the chaplain: "A voice told me not to do

If they had only trusted me. it would have been different, but I  
t I was hopeless when they locked me up and put those two corpsmen  
guard me. I fooled them and tried to kill myself again."

When admitted to the hospital, he greeted the chaplain with  
d has forsaken me . . . I'll never get well. You all know this,  
you won't say." In the same interview, he spoke of himself as  
ng an atheist, though he later added that he "Believed in a Supreme  
ng."

While in the hospital, his relationship to the chaplain was  
racterized by a marked dependence. He looked forward to and sought  
prolong all visits which were made, and always gave indications of  
ding considerable reassurance that the chaplain was going to keep  
word about visiting him again. He asked for and said he read his  
ole. His preferred reading in the New Testament was St. Paul's  
stles to Timothy. He indicated that there was some concern about  
yer and asked for church privileges. He attempted to come to church  
after only a very few visits stopped coming. He received consider-  
e therapeutic help from the staff doctors and, after a period of six  
ths, was discharged from the hospital as "improved."

Let us now critically examine this material with a view toward  
ting forth those considerations that would be of help to others who  
ght meet the problem of the loss of faith.

One of the first considerations, and perhaps one of the most  
portant from the viewpoint of the pastor, is that in this matter we  
e not dealing with a purely intellectual problem. In fact, it would  
correct to say that the intellectual aspects of the problem are so  
nor in importance as to be nearly negligible. It has no doubt been  
e experience of many pastors that, after having presented quite lucid  
planations of the reasons for the loss of the individual's faith (in  
cord with the reasons given by the individual to the pastor), other  
oubts" are soon presented and the person reiterates his feelings that  
s faith is gone. No matter how many sound, reasonable, cogent, and  
monstrable arguments are produced for the existence of God, the  
individual's faith still remains of uncertain quality.

Let us see how this is illustrated in our case. Our patient  
s not at all aware of the contradiction involved in his statements





out being an atheist and yet, at the same time, believing in a  
reme Being. It might occur to us to dismiss this on the grounds of  
orance, but our patient was far from ignorant. True, he had little  
mal education, but his experience and reading made one quickly  
scious of the fact that he was a well educated person. Again, it  
not seem at all strange to him that he should greet the chaplain  
h the statement, "God has forsaken me . . . ." and yet, at the same  
e, affirm that he was an atheist. And one hardly needs to point  
the curious fact of an atheist who prays and, as the patient put  
says, "Thanks God."

This same contradiction can be demonstrated in other cases.  
e it might not be inappropriate to mention the case of a brilliant  
tor of philosophy whose religion was given on the admission note as  
t of "atheist." In the first interview, he discussed the subject of  
igion with willingness and intelligence. After listening to him for  
e length and noting that he was presenting a logical and well formed  
ument for the agnostic's position, this was pointed out to him. The  
ient replied with considerable hostile feeling that he was not an  
agnostic but an atheist. It was perfectly apparent from his own obser-  
tions that he knew the distinctions, but he insisted on the word  
eist. Here it would seem that even the label itself had marked emotion-  
significance.

In problems of this nature, we are dealing with something that  
s to do primarily with the realm of the emotions. It is not without  
gnificance that the individual will usually present his difficulty  
h the words, "I feel as though I am losing my faith." From all this,  
are then led to conclude: to present reasonable arguments, to ad-  
nce proofs of God's existence, to stress even the evidences of the  
ief of others, is not the method of dealing with such difficulties.  
e can approach them only through their frank recognition as deep-set  
otional problems, which require careful, patient and understanding  
adling. Here is where above all the pastor must be an observant  
stener, giving his parishioner the opportunity to talk and thus come  
learn the facts that lie behind the present condition. Only in this  
anner can he offer the help his people require.

It might be wise at this point to anticipate an objection that  
ght well be raised. One frequently hears when presenting clinical data  
tained from those who are mentally ill: "Well, one would expect that  
rt of thing -- these people are not normal." This is very common con-  
ption, and it follows logically from a misapprehension of the phenomena  
human conduct. Only a very brief comment can be ventured within the  
nfinies of this paper.

There is a growing body of serious investigators of inter-  
sonal relations, who maintain that even such a marked personality  
sturbance as mental illness is not a matter of any difference in kind





the experiences of people, but a difference in degree.1 Fundamental it is maintained, we are all subject to the same laws of interpersonal activity, but, through a diversity of factors, we are not all subject to the same stresses and strains. Hence, the end results may show wide differences in the pattern of our human relations, but these end results are potentially present in all so-called "normal" activity. This, then, would not invalidate our conclusions drawn from facts observed from the seriously emotionally disturbed, but it would serve merely to illustrate them much more graphically, and in detail, so that they could be studied with greater profit. It might be said that in this data we are considering the *exaggerations* of human behaviour which provide opportunities for new insight and lend basis to conclusions not so readily demonstrable or observable in the routine exchange of human experience.

Perhaps the most important consideration from our material is the significance and necessity for good personal relationships, with special stress being laid upon those of very early life. In the case of our patient, we have ample demonstration of those poor relationships which seem to suggest a close correlation with the patient's eventual lack of faith. Our patient was deserted by his father and mother, then by his paternal grandparents (death is often interpreted by the child as equivalent of desertion), and again by uncle, aunt, and finally the maternal grandparents. He appears to have had little opportunity to experience those relationships which we ascribe in our relation to God, for there was for him no real "fatherly goodness, care and concern." In the last and great rejection by his parents, when he was an adolescent (adolescence is its own unique period in which the individual stands in great need for strength, support and understanding), when he meets the "kindly old man" who is an atheist, it is not surprising to learn that he adopts the atheist's position. The rejection of religion thus implied in his "atheism" might then be more correctly interpreted as an attempt to obtain a response to his need for warmth and affection. But it so obviously drew him closer to his "kindly old man." And yet at the same time, we cannot overlook the rejection of a concept of God which for him had nothing but negative and painful significance. Thus we are reminded of a conviction growing out of just such clinical experience that people find meaningful only those concepts which have been demonstrated for them to have value in their living.

This "lack of faith in God" in a sense has another serious result. It results also in a loss of faith in one's self! Here we are reminded that when the patient was about seven or eight or at an age when he has reached some definite understanding about his experiences, he begins to reflect on his being rejected so frequently. He states, "What's the use. Who am I to complain? Maybe I'm supposed to be left alone and like this." Later, when he is promoted to a higher rank in the service, though he has a good record throughout his service, he protests that he is unable to accept, because he does not think he can do the



Here we might draw attention to the wisdom of the ancient writer stated that, "as a man thinketh in himself, so is he." In his case, we note that there was great preoccupation with feelings of worthlessness, and the patient himself tells us that his nearly successful suicidal attempt followed close upon the placing of the guard over him in the hospital: "Had they only trusted me, it would have been different."

One is greatly tempted here to consider this one aspect of the case as possibly the most extreme manifestation of a degree of personal unworthiness. One hears so frequently from people like this the phrase, "I'm not fit to live with," a phrase which in itself has most significant implications. Certainly we can say of such people that we have here the final evidences of complete loss of self-esteem. This in turn appears to have direct relation to the fact that the significant feature in the individual's life demonstrated by their relations to him was that they had neither respect nor concern for him as a person.

It might be well for us, as pastors, to ask the parenthetical question of what use would it be to urge an individual like this to "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"? Experience has taught us that only as the individual has been able to come to terms with himself, as he has been able to settle the conflicts within himself so that he has come to attain some measure of self-respect, can he then become more outgoing and loving toward others. For it is only as one comes to be able to love one's self that he is able to love others. This touches upon the insight and understanding of Jesus and the Old Testament prophets, who point to this maxim. This man really needs not to be reminded of what he is to do: in some measure, he indicates sufficient awareness of his need already. His need, and the injunction to the pastor, is to point to the way in which this commandment can be attained. And this can never come by words only! It must ever be a vital experience!

Out of our patient's lack of good personal relations, with the consequent insecurities, one would expect to find personal characteristics and interests of a certain kind. This is true in our case. One thing, the patient came to be very dependent upon the chaplain soon as he found that the chaplain took a personal interest in him. He insisted that there be frequent visits, and even at times asked that he be allowed to miss meals to continue the interview. He did everything he could to prolong the interviews, and when the time came for the chaplain to leave, he would accompany him to the last door of the ward, continuing to talk. Invariably, the last word would be, "You'll come back, now won't you -- you promise?" This was repeated at many times during the first interviews, even though an appointment was never broken.





One of the interesting things about this dependence was that spite of it (or was it really because of it?), the patient did not able to accept what the chaplain said. When questioned as to why kept asking the chaplain if he were coming back after having been told that he was and that this promise had never been broken, he would reply: "Oh, I just wanted to make sure that you would come back." Then, when it was shown him that there were many evidences that pointed toward his recovery, he would reply: "You are a good man -- you say I am just to cheer me up but I know that it is not so." The thinly veiled hostility of the remarks, i.e. that the chaplain was not telling the truth, often seemed so obvious that one wonders why it did not become consciously apparent. Our patient needed to trust somebody. This very need would evoke the anticipation of being rejected, since rejection had been his previous pattern. This, in turn, would result in those feelings of hostility which follow closely on the experience of frustration.

Another manifestation of the patient's needs appeared in his interest in and reading of St. Paul's Epistles to Timothy. This seems a very strange reading for him -- at first glance. But he was most specific that this was his "first choice" when questioned. One can easily see something of why he preferred this book above others, when it is remembered that these letters were written by an old man, whose writing shows himself to be quite kindly and certainly affectionately concerned about the young man who is beginning his life's work. His words are full of the wisdom of long experience, and his intention to offer the support and strength of careful counsel. We need hardly be reminded that these very things have been denied our patient.

We have already had some indication of the light this patient's experiences can shed on well known scriptural passages. It is a fact that as we become aware in some detail of such an experience, we become greatly impressed with the wisdom and insight of the Biblical writers. It is no accident that seminarians and clergymen who study in a mental hospital, and thus become aware of these phenomena for the first time, are led to exclaim at the new understandings they have obtained about the Bible.

One of the more meaningful of these passages are words that come to us from Jesus. It is recorded in St. Matthew 25:29 that he said: "For unto everyone that hath shall be given and he shall have abundance but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." When we think back over our patient's history, this observation is almost startling in its significance. It is precisely because he was not loved as a child that he suffered his greatest privation. If we think of this lack of love as the withholding of warmth and tenderness, so that there was no meaningful concern for meeting of his needs as a growing person, we can see how little





deed this man had with which to begin. Then when in later life the inevitable stresses and strains came even the little he had was as nothing, and he was left with no inner resources. It is even as Margaret Ribble suggests in her stimulating and provocative little book *The Rights of Infants*, that when the child's needs are not met, especially at the level of the need for affection, there is later evidenced a very serious warp in the personality of the adult individual.

There is yet one other consideration about the experiences of our patient to which attention will be drawn. This touches upon the possible reasons why people find it difficult to attend church. During the time the patient was in the hospital he made definite attempts to come to the regular Sunday services. This happened only a few times, and then he stopped coming. When questioned about this, he made the following illuminating comment: "Something you said in your speech made me depressed. It made me think of what might have been. If people had faith in God and religion, they wouldn't have to come to mental hospitals. They wouldn't have to be here if I had faith in God. My only prayer now is 'thanks God,' and I look out of the window."

It would seem, from this patient's own words, that non-attendance at church meant for him not what he wanted to do, but a refraining from something that could arouse within him only painful memories and associations. It would seem that intellectually he was most sincere about his desire to attend, but his feelings provided such a conflict about the activity that the only solution appeared to be the avoidance of the services.

Here, once again, we are confronted with the necessity of dealing with these phenomena, not on the ground on which they are often presented, the ground of so-called reasonable argument, but to recognize in them the possibility of painful emotional associations, which are beyond the immediate awareness of the person concerned.

The writer is rather vividly aware of a parish experience somewhat of this nature which took place some years before any hospital raining. There was a man in the parish, a widower who nominally belonged to the church but never attended. The first call upon him was faced with considerable misgivings. A picture of a surly, gruff and forbidding figure loomed in mind all the way out to his farm. The man himself proved to be the very opposite. He was quite friendly, interested in the pastor, and showed some signs of appreciating the call. As a matter of fact, he sought to prolong it. Before leaving, it was suggested that he would be welcome at the Sunday service. Surprisingly enough, he said he would come. But he didn't! Even at that time, it was hard to think of him as not interested in the church, indifferent or hypocritical. After many years, it would seem now that he was much more likely a person about whom the pastor had very little understanding indeed, and consequently to whom he was able to be of little pastoral help.

In conclusion, these considerations and findings are not based



rely on one individual's life experiences. Our patient happens to illustrate quite vividly what one sees by indirection in many other individuals. In the case of the woman whose statement was used as a beginning for this paper, it was learned after some interviews that her faith seemed threatened at that period in her life following many experiences of rejection. First, her father died after a lingering illness; then her husband proved unfaithful and divorced her; some years later she became engaged again, and her fiance died in the war; then, soon after, her mother and then her sister died. She obtained another suitor, and he broke off the relationship with no warning; then the patient's mother-in-law, with whom she had maintained close relationships even after her divorce, also died. Finally, just when she became most sharply aware of the fact that the only person whom she had left who was at all close to her, a brother-in-law, would have absolutely nothing to do with her, there followed the despairing utterance of the fear of her loss of faith. Later in the course of working through some of these problems, she said: "My fear of the loss of someone to go to is wearing me down mentally. It is terrible when you are not wanted by your own people." She herself came to date the onset of the fear of her loss of faith to the attitude of her brother-in-law.

It is recognized that this study is by no means a definitive statement as to who people should come to lose their faith. It is hoped, however, that the considerations which have been presented here might provide some meaningful insights which will enable us to achieve more helpful pastoral understandings and skills. These, in turn, should make it possible for us to be more effective in our pastoral opportunities.





*The Reverend Reuel L. Howe, Professor of Pastoral Theology  
Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Virginia*

In recent years certain significant changes have taken place in theological education. One of the most important of these is the changing emphasis from the teaching of subject matter to the training of men for the ministry. Ecclesiastical and theological subject matter is now being seen less as an end in itself and more as a means to an end. Its value is dependent upon the ability of the man possessing it to communicate and use it through his own person and function. The preoccupation of theological schools with the mastery of curriculum content emphasized the intellectual ability of the students and minimized the importance of the emotional and personality factors. The frequently observed discrepancy between the student's seminary achievements and their achievements in the pastoral work inevitably have raised questions which eventually led to this changing emphasis. The minister's feelings, attitudes, and motives are just as important in the exercise of the ministry as is knowledge and intellectual insight. It is important, therefore, that the whole person of the candidate for the ministry receive training and supervision.

Education that seeks to condition and train the whole man does not take place in the limitations of the classroom, especially when the lecture method is commonly employed. This method forces students into passive roles in which they transmit to their notes the digested content of the course for future reproduction in an examination. It is even possible for the students to pass through such an experience without being aroused intellectually. To meet this sterile situation many seminaries have instituted first, the seminar method of teaching, and secondly, clinical pastoral training. Both methods place more responsibility on the students in the learning process, and make it necessary for them to employ more fully their total capacities and resources.

The stimulus of this kind of theological education produces certain results. The students' previous ideas and ways of living are revealed and made accessible for re-evaluation. Hostile and defensive patterns of behavior are brought to light. Feelings of personal inadequacy which have been covered over and compensated for by superficial and often unwholesome devices are exposed. Motives for entering the ministry are questioned. Some previous ideas and use of religion are shown to be negative and unwholesome. On the other hand, certain positive results are apparent. Previously unknown capacities are revealed and are given opportunity for development. A new sense of relationship is acquired, and adequate motives for the ministry are formed. In other words, if theological education is vital, it influences the whole student, helping him to give up immature ideas, feelings, and ways of



ing, and to acquire more mature ones. A counseling service is need-  
acutely by those students who are going through the necessary pur-  
ive and disorganizing part of their seminary experience. It is  
led also by those students who are going through the constructive  
of their experience, and are acquiring new and more adequate con-  
ts, insights, and relationships.

Theological schools whose students either elect or are re-  
red to take clinical pastoral training particularly need a counselor  
their staff because of the nature of training and its effect upon  
students. The constant day-by-day contact and work with people  
their problems over a period of twelve weeks causes them to become  
re, perhaps for the first time, of the nature and importance of  
selves as persons in the work of the ministry, where the direct,  
st-hand nature of clinical work makes impossible the viewing of the  
an being and his situation from an intellectually detached point of  
w. Furthermore, they cannot intellectually evade the situation or  
implications. The function of supervision in pastoral training is  
help the students come to grips with life situations as they are  
countered. More is begun in the way of insights and understandings  
ing the twelve weeks' training period than the supervisor can help  
students complete. Much of the fruit of this experience does not  
ome apparent until after the students have left the training center  
have returned to the theological school. For this reason semin-  
es having students who receive training should make counseling pro-  
ion for the needs which this part of their curricula create.

The remainder of this article is concerned with a summary and  
erpretation of the experience of the writer in two seminaries, both  
which require clinical pastoral training.

The first and most obvious observation to be made is that  
er the students have received one period of training they seek the  
p of the counselor more readily and frequently than they do before  
clinical pastoral training. Their statements made during post-train-  
g counseling sessions about their pre-training attitudes toward  
ounseling reveal the following: (1) there is a lack of awareness on  
eir parts of the need for help; (2) when there is a sense of need  
s in the case of a student who realized that he did not get along  
ll with people) some form of evasion is often employed that makes it  
ssible for them to hide from the problem or explain it away; (3) they  
ld the opinion that to seek the aid of a counselor is a sign of weak-  
ss on their part. Some of the students who fail to seek counseling  
assistance before training fear that the counselor, because of his ad-  
ministrative and disciplinary authority as a member of the faculty, is  
t to be completely trusted as a pastor. This aspect of the problem  
ll be discussed later. At this point it only needs to be said that  
is is an inhibiting factor to a decreasing degree with the second and  
third year students.





There are, however, some appeals for counseling from students who have not as yet received training. These for the most part are first year students. The problems presented to the counselor fall into three groups. (1) problems concerning academic welfare, (2) problems concerning field work; and (3) "moral" problems.

Many of the academic concerns are routine matters that call for faculty direction in any educational institution, such as choice of courses, consultation with regard to the doing of assigned work, and understanding of or difficulties in the doing of the work. Some of these problems are presented by the students as objective difficulties, as if the reason for the occurrence of them existed entirely outside of the students themselves. It is observed, however, that sometimes the reasons for the difficulties exist in the students. One, for example, complained that he failed two midterm tests because the instructor in the course did not have his subject matter adequately organized. The real difficulty, later revealed, lay in the fact that the student could not concentrate on his work because the persuasive desire of his family for him to be a minister interfered with his desire to prepare himself for another work. Attempts on the part of the counselor to help this student to understand the possible real reasons for his difficulties were without failure until after the student has a period of training. Counseling then helped him to achieve a reasonable independence of his family and to make his own decisions, one of which was to leave the seminary and prepare himself for another vocation.

A goodly number of consultations with regard to field work concern such routine matters as assignments, supervision of work, and students' financial needs in relation to the income available from different types of field work. Some of the problems occurring in these areas, like those above, exist more in the students than in the outside situation. Those who find it necessary periodically to ask for change in Sunday work assignments are unaware that their requests are signs of difficulties in themselves and tend to resist any help but at which effects changes in their external situation.

"Moral" problems are so called because that is the name commonly given to them by the students themselves. They are made up most of sexual difficulties of long standing. Usually the expectation that the "holy" environment of the seminary together with preoccupation with religious studies will cause these problems to disappear without individual effort. The new environment quite to the contrary, seems to aggravate these difficulties. The accumulated feelings of guilt become acute and the students are driven by inner necessity to the man on the campus who is generally known as the counselor. The very desperation of the students usually makes them accessible to help until the problem is settled to their satisfaction. It is interesting to note that the students who have not had training are primarily concerned with symptom removal only. As soon as the outward sign of their trouble disappears they assume that all is in order with them. The



ect of superficial symptom remission produces in them a rigidity of behavior comparable to that of a man trying to walk a chalk line. Reserves, needless to say, are frequent and acutely disturbing. Unless they want to continue counseling it is not wise for the counselor to press for further insights. It is observed that almost the sole significance of Christianity for these students is its moral imperatives. Their religion may be a religion of observance, characterized by a feeling of oughtness which, more often than not, complicates their difficulties so that resources of the Church are not available to them.

On the basis of the foregoing discussion we may draw the following conclusions with regard to counseling in relation to first year students who have not had pastoral training: (1) awareness of need is not commonly present, or, if it is, it is apt to be evaded by one method or another, (2) acute personal problems with strong feelings of guilt called for counseling service but only to the point of symptom removal; (3) preoccupation with the external aspects of personal problems is accompanied by a religion of observance with compulsive concerns for purity and rightness of behavior.

Turning now to a use of counseling by students who have had at least one period of pastoral training, we find quite a different attitude represented. The students return to the seminary from a vivid experience of having worked closely with all sorts and conditions of people. Most of them are newly aware of the deeper needs of people, of the causes of those needs, and of what is required to meet them. They are newly aware of the importance of interpersonal relationships as they exist within the family both in their own lives and in the lives of the people with whom they worked. Finally, they are newly aware of the profound importance of the ability of the minister to relate helpfully to the people to whom they are to minister. They are beginning to realize how God uses persons to communicate Himself and His salvation to persons, and that they themselves cannot be His ministers in the fullest sense of the word unless they have dealt effectively with whatever difficulties they have in their own persons and are thus ready to be helpful friends to all men. Because of this experience in training and the insights it fosters the students return to the seminary with a desire to continue growth in insight and understanding.

The type of counseling called for by these students is of a nature consistent with the nature of the experience from which they have just come. There is need for help in working through dawning insights concerning themselves and their ways of living and relating to people. A common problem that arises frequently is the problem of newly discovered hostility toward people. As one student expressed

"I cannot preach the Gospel of Love and feel the way I do." He now realizes that his characteristic attitude toward his parents, his bishop, his professors, his contemporaries is antagonistic. He is aware of certain acts toward these people that can only be explained by his antagonism. He knows that without help his ministry will be





dered. He assumes responsibility for his part of the counseling process and is willing to meet with the counselor once a week for how long the relationship is helpful. This same student a year earlier was unaware of any need and was known to maintain a superior attitude toward students who were seeking aid of the counselor. Disturbing feelings of inferiority and inadequacy are another common problem presented to the counselor. An interesting result of having worked through these feelings which are fairly common is best expressed in the words of another student: "The Church as a living fellowship means more to me now than it ever did before. Now I can take my own place in it without fear, and, instead of being threatened by the abilities and influences of others, I can welcome and rejoice in them. The Church is like a family in which every member is important and needed." Other feelings encountered in this aspect of counseling are those of unacknowledged and unacknowledged feelings of dependence, and guilt.

It needs to be said here that one important responsibility of the seminary counselor is to refer students to carefully selected psychiatric care when the situation shows the need for it. Experience has far indicates that this added resource is best provided when the seminary arranges with a psychiatrist for a regular bloc of his time for the care of its students. Close cooperation between the seminary counselor and the psychiatrist is essential.

The pastoral counselor on the seminary staff should not regard himself nor cause or allow others to regard him as a psychotherapist. His primary function is to listen to the students while they talk, and to help them by objectifying their thinking and feeling. He helps them further by considering with them as many of the factors involved in their situations as possible, and by guiding and encouraging their wholesome insights and constructive courses of action.

Personal problems are not the only area in which the seminary counselor functions. He has opportunity also to help students work through some of the implications of their training experiences for both their religious understanding and their function as ministers. In this aspect counseling takes on a tutorial aspect. The pastoral and educational work of a counselor cannot really be separated; they are two aspects of one function. At one time, depending on the need, the pastoral side of the work is emphasized and at another time the educational. It often happens that after students have worked through questions that concern them personally they find that new insights into the meaning of the Christian faith and ethics have come to them. They regard the counselor as one who can talk with them about them. One student, having come through a long series of sessions with the counselor during which he talked about some episodes in his life about which he felt guilty and self-condemnatory, came to a new sense of the meaning of God's understanding and forgiveness as a result of experiencing in relation to his counselor an acceptance of himself as a person

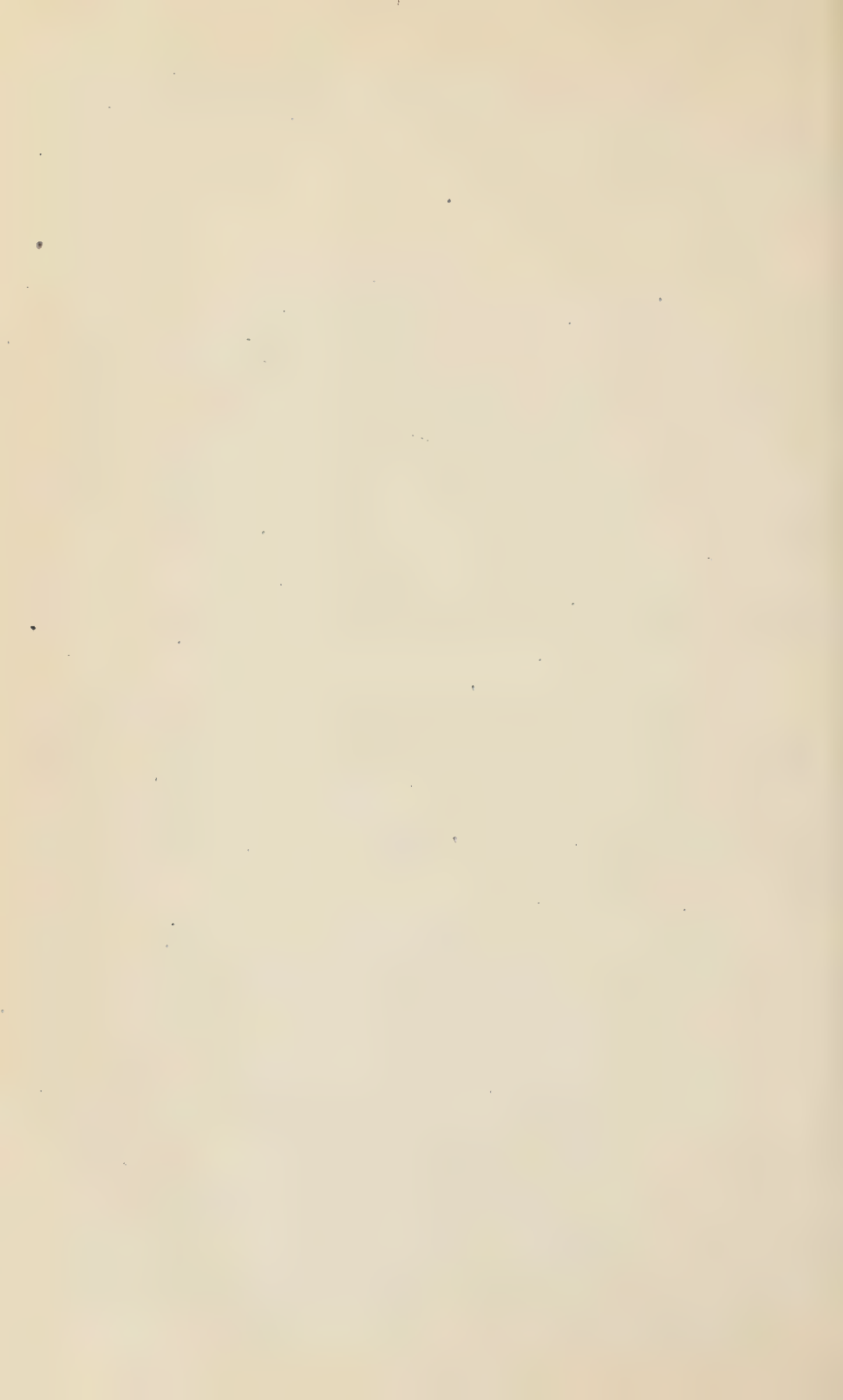


in spite of everything he had done. As he experienced the benefits of this kind of relationship, he was helped by his counselor to recognize human acceptance how God works to save the sick and sinners. Long before modern principles of the healing power of interpersonal relationships were known Calvin wrote "Thus we simply explain justification to be an acceptance, by which God receives us into His favor, and esteems us as righteous persons."<sup>1</sup> This kind of counseling helps the students to insights and understandings that enable them as religious teachers and pastors to cooperate with God and His redemptive work.

The counseling process also has a contribution to make to the students' professional understanding and capacities as ministers. The first and most obvious contribution is that having been counselees they have had first-hand experience of the counseling process. The old dictum that no priest should hear confessions who does not make his own confession applies equally to those who would be counselors. Instruction in counseling is desirable and necessary, but the experience of it is essential to those who would really be pastors and counselors. Students who have had training and have been counseled demonstrably have more grasp of the principles of the process than do those students whose acquaintance with it is academic. Counseling sessions provide many opportunities to discuss the nature of pastoral work, the role of the pastor, the relevancy of the Church's faith and practice to human need, preaching in relation to life situations, the pastor as teacher and the teacher as pastor.

The foregoing discussion can be summed up as follows (1) the demand for counseling on the part of the students who have received at least one period of training is greater than it was before training, (2) the character of counseling is definitely different in the case of those who have had training. There is a franker and deeper recognition of need and a willingness to accept help, as well as a desire to work through the implications of training and counseling for religious insight and professional function.

Mention was made earlier of the conflict between a faculty member's function as a counselor and the administrative authority he bears. It is unquestionably true that this constitutes an obstacle to the counseling relationship for many students, if not for most of them. The conflict is relieved by three factors (1) As a result of their experience in pastoral training most students receive help in their attitudes toward those in authority, and are also helped in their understanding of the nature and value of counseling. It is easier for them to seek help. (2) The counselor must, if he values his function as such, act as one. He must relinquish any conscious function of administrative or disciplinary authority except in a general and impersonal way in the anonymity of group faculty action. (3) A wholesome exercise of the counseling function begets confidence among the students. His reputation for understanding, objectivity, and helpfulness disarms fear and inspires trust.





On the other hand, a counselor can often interpret a student to the faculty. It has happened that a student who was on the "skids" for other than academic reasons has been rightly saved for the ministry because his difficulties were understood, interpreted, and received properly. Contrarywise, students whose difficulties were so serious that their suitability for the ministry was frankly questionable have been helped by the counseling process to withdraw voluntarily. The ability to make this decision and act on it is in itself evidence of the benefit received in counseling.

The simple conclusion of this discussion is, therefore, that counseling is a helpful resource to schools that are preparing men for ministry. It is essential when clinical pastoral training is either an elective or required part of the curriculum.



It's a sin! It's a crime! It's a symptom! These are the thoughts that seem foremost in the minds of the theologian, the jurist, the analyst when he considers the thousands of thefts that are committed each day in our country. The homely philosopher is probably correct when he states that none of the above has the correct answer that "it is a shame," that they do not work more closely and reach a solution to the problem. Those who merely condemn and shout "Thou shalt not steal" will do little to bring about an appreciation of the property of others. Those who would only incarcerate and look down from the bench and say "I sentence you to ...." will breed resentment and bitterness and propagate a desire for the perfect crime. Diagnosis is valuable but "The findings of the board ...." are useless unless treatment is prescribed and put into operation.

Theft is a violation, not only of the laws of God, but also of the laws of man. The analyst is most certainly correct when he tells that theft is a symptom and that theft is the end product of some dissatisfaction, frustration, sorrow, or any of the many other emotional disturbances of mankind. We would not think of attempting to cure lesions by rubbing salve on the spots that appear on the surface of the skin. We treat the patient internally and very shortly cure what appears on the surface. We have been doing this in physical ailments for many generations yet when personality defects show up in the form of anti-social or anti-religious problems, we so often make a frontal attack on the act itself and fail to realize that the cure must begin from within.

Among the thousands who are now "serving time" because they violated God's command "Thou shalt not steal," only a small percentage are ignorant of the fact that they were committing a violation. It is safe to say that only those who have committed the acts innocently are those who have severe mental disturbances or are intellectually incapable of learning. The courts and the church are ready and willing to forgive and forget in such cases, so it is seldom that any of them are forced to pay for their misconduct. Almost everyone knows it is a violation to steal, the problem before us then is, what are the motivations behind theft.

We must remember that only a small number of thefts are committed because the object stolen is needed to satisfy a physical want. The fundamental desire is not to possess the object itself but the mere having of the object usually fulfills some deep-seated desire or wish. The one committing the act. Few apples are stolen by children because



... are actually hungry. It is possible that only one car in a thousand is stolen because the automobile is actually needed. Very little money is stolen because the person needs it to carry out a legitimate part of life. Very little clothing is stolen because the person needs something to wear. When it is shown conclusively that thefts are committed in order to satisfy a real existing need, the church and state are ready to come to the offender's rescue.

The motivations for theft are legion and one would be foolish to attempt to catalogue them in any simple manner. There are as many reasons for theft as there are reasons "why the chicken crosses the road." Without attempting classification, let us look at some actual cases of theft and their motivations.

-- JOHN --

John was one of a family of a number of children. Both parents were college graduates and the father earned an adequate income and was able to furnish the family with everything they actually needed. The parents and children were active in the work of the church and no one could ever say that this family was anything but the best in town. John probably had more money and more material possessions than any of his high school buddies. His family did not want him to work after school nor on Saturdays. They felt that jobs were scarce and that children of less means should hold these schoolboy jobs. The family lived in a very fine hotel apartment and there was no work for John to do around home. He liked to work and wanted to be kept busy, but the family insisted that he never perform any tasks that would take money away from some other boy who needed it. John was not greedy or selfish, any sense of the word. He respected his own personal property and treated it in a business-like manner. He was not extravagant in his dealing with others and again he was not a miser. He would give and share with others when the occasion arose.

John was not detected for months after he began to steal from apartment stores. No one would ever think of him as a thief. He had all of the earmarks of a polite, reserved, well-mannered high school youth. John could not understand why he began to steal when he had plenty of money in his pockets to buy the things he took. It was only natural that the family was horrified when John confessed.

After many visits it became clear that although his parents had given him many things, they had not understood his need to experience the real "joys of possession and acquiring." He had never known the joy of working, saving, and planning to buy. A much needed joy and satisfaction and real sense of possession came to John in plotting and planning and stealing the property of others. John's keen mind told him that the blazer worn by his buddy meant a great deal to his





because he worked and planned and saved for it. But it took hours of counseling for John to understand that he was stealing in order to get this same satisfaction to himself.

John found the answer to his own problem when he explained to the chaplain the things that he envied in his school companions. When he would hear them discuss their finances, it made him feel very inadequate. He felt they were accomplishing something when they saved their money and bought things for themselves. He knew there was something missing in his life when he would hear them say, "After I get paid on Friday, I will have enough to buy that new suit." When John began to discuss this part of his life, he gained insight into his own problem immediately. Little interpretation was needed from the counselor.

### - - RENE - -

Rene was the younger of two boys in a cultured family that was socially prominent. He attended an exclusive high school where it was customary for the young folks to have dances, dinners, teas, etc., and following athletic events at the school. Rene participated in these activities with very little enthusiasm. The family car was always given to him for these occasions and gradually he began to stay out later and later following these social events. After the dance or tea he never went directly home and often left this social group and drove around with other boys from another district. Before long the family removed him the use of the car, thinking this would force him to return home when the party had broken up. Before many months passed, Rene borrowed a car from a close family friend and drove it across numerous townships, implicating himself and a few friends in some very serious law violations. The law demanded a payment and Rene was not given probation but received a short Reformatory sentence.

Finding the motivation behind the theft in this case was not difficult. Rene was willing to talk and the difficulty became apparent. Rene felt uneasy when associating with the girls in his school. The sexual stimulations he received in their presence was troubling to him. He never attempted to solve this problem by becoming promiscuous with girls, as is so often the case, but he attempted to solve it by retreating. He disliked going to the dances or the teas, but the social pressure of his environment demanded that he attend. One of his first major attempts to solve the problem was to remain away from school to the early hours of the morning. He expected his parents to refuse to permit him to go to the social functions. Instead of refusing to permit him to go to the parties, they insisted that he attend every social function. They thought he needed association with "nice people," especially girls. They were attempting to help, but every time they attempted to help they made Rene more miserable and unhappy. The fin-



break came when he stole the car and ran away, not only from his own family but from his entire social environment.

The motivation behind the theft is sexual in nature. Rene' didn't want the car he stole - he wanted to get away from home, because getting away from home meant getting away from parties and association with girls. Rene's mother and father blocked his sexual development because of their own attitude toward sex. They wanted their boy to be prominent socially and forced him into circumstances, which because of their own teaching was revolting to him. If Rene' is to avoid criminal activity in the future he will need to have more insight into his sexual problem.

### --- ALBERT ---

Albert, who embezzled some fourteen thousand dollars from a position in which he was working was attempting to punish his family and get even with his older brother and father for the way in which they had treated him. Albert always thought that his older brother was favored by the father, and probably he was, because the older brother was more capable and willing to cooperate closely with the father. For numerous reasons, Albert was unsuccessful in competing with the older brother. No matter what field they entered, the older brother was always more successful. The family never did anything to even the score and thought that Albert would soon become less jealous and more appreciative of the efforts of the father and the older brother.

After Albert got the job in the bank, the social prestige that went with the position was enough to support him successfully for approximately ten years. He then discovered that even though his father and brother had less important positions they had more money and were able to overshadow Albert and his wife. Albert's promotions came frequently, but the promotions carried little increase in salary. Even though he became the cashier, his salary did not permit him to live a life that would enable him to compete with his father and brother financially. Albert embezzled money for many years before he was caught. He never understood why he had this need to take money dishonestly. He spent the money freely and he enjoyed buying his father and older brother expensive gifts and entertaining them in a lavish manner. On the surface, it looks as though they were the very best of friends, but actually Albert hated both the father and the brother. He gave them the gifts not because he loved them, but because he despised them. He did this to prove to them that he was their superior. This vicious cycle started and broke only when Albert was discovered and placed in a penitentiary. Albert tried every possible scheme to get out of the penitentiary and was continually lamenting that he had brought dis-





e and dishonor to his family. It was clear that Albert was receiving a great deal of satisfaction out of the incarceration. He was gaining disgrace and dishonor to his brother and father and this was a source of enjoyment. Albert never understood his problem, and in all probability will continue this unwholesome competition with his father and brother.

In order to uncover the motivation in this case, it was necessary to permit Albert to talk about his association with his father and brother. He told about the competition between him and his brother, who was the favorite of the father and revealed how he spent much of the embezzled money to either directly or indirectly make them both hate and envy him. The stolen funds were used to place Albert on a pedestal so the father and brother, who always domineered him, would be forced to look up to him. He didn't want the money, he wanted to be even with the family, and it appeared that his incarceration was only a means to that end.

### -- JACKIE --

Jackie was a friendly little fellow. He had many friends because he was always willing to help anyone. He knew it was wrong to steal because he had attended Sunday School regularly and had been taught the Commandments early in life. Jackie was full of energy and extremely active. He was too small in stature to be a regular member of an athletic group in his own neighborhood and never was properly motivated to use his brain rather than his brawn as a means of competition. He gained some satisfaction from being the mascot and water-boy, but this never satisfied his ambition. He began stealing rather early in life, yet he was not exactly a petty thief. He never kept things that he stole but gave them away or discarded them in a garbage can. He never stole anything that was easy to get, but always looked for something that was well protected. He did not get a thrill from walking into a store and stealing things from an open counter. But when he found something that was protected and hidden and hard to get, it thrilled him no end until he was able to get his object. He wouldn't steal a bicycle that was setting on the front porch, but if there was one locked up in the neighbor's cellar he would devise a scheme to go down the coal chute, dismantle the bicycle and take it home piece by piece over a period of a number of weeks and after assembling the bicycle would be quite content to give it away. Jackie was interested in sports but felt that his small stature would not permit him to engage in athletics. If he had lived where it were possible for him to go fishing or hunting probably he would have been in the woods or along a stream all of his spare time. These things were not available to him, therefore his great sport and activity was taking things that



is hard to get. Doesn't the trout fisherman get up in the middle of the night, drive his good car miles into the rough mountainous country, go two or three miles through thick wooded mountain areas until he comes to a stream where few men ever fish? After working in this way many hours he looks in his creel at his catch with a deep sense of pleasure. Jackie got the same satisfaction out of stealing, that the fisherman got out of fishing.

When it was discovered that Jackie gave all the objects he stole to others, the motivation was not hard to discover. With him it was the same -- a sport, at which he could succeed. He did not know he stole and was worried about it. After he discussed his experiences in detail, and was given some indirect hints, he understood his situation and the problem solved itself. He needed to talk it over with someone and he answered his own question, "why do I do it?"

During the past war, the army was severely criticized by our press for the manner in which it handled problems of theft. Some individuals could take thousands of dollars in money or property from the army and convert it to their own individual use. Yet, during court-martial proceedings, they would be given a slight fine, sentenced to a short period of confinement, yet would be permitted to return to military duty without being dishonorably discharged. On the other hand, a soldier may have confessed stealing watches, billfolds, and other personal property from his own regimental buddies and, at the time of court-martial, be given an extremely long sentence and be dishonorably discharged from the service. The petty thief could not understand why he was so severely treated while others, who took property valued hundreds of times the amount, were given light punishment and later returned to duty. This action is reasonable when we understand the petty thief has a major personality disorder that can be cured only by long hours of treatment and self study. The man who is found guilty of larceny and embezzlement is usually one with well organized drives and goals. One man had his drives and goals well organized and would learn rapidly because of the punishment. On the other hand, the petty thief is so maladjusted that he will be a constant source of trouble unless there is a major change in his personality. The army is still being criticized for such action, yet they were basing their decision on motivations. We too must study motivations before we advise or condemn.

It is not the intention of this paper to give any definite answers to the problems of theft. It is hoped that the cases presented here will merely stimulate thinking about the "motivations for theft." The material presented here has been "boiled down" considerably and the conclusions are not final, but the motives presented seem to have played a most prominent part in the violation. Each problem of theft must be studied individually and the motives must be understood



dealt with. In order to deal effectively with the person who steals, it is necessary to get at the causes. Unless we begin our fight at this source, we will be unsuccessful. Removing valuable objects from the environment of those who have a tendency to steal will help them adjust in any appreciable manner. It will merely cause a dissatisfied person to seek some other means of release and this means of release may be just as great a violation as the violation of the first.

It is necessary to look "behind the scenes" for the cause of civil and religious misconduct. This is as important in the parish as in the reformatory. The pastor who knows the motives behind the act can reach a truer evaluation of the behaviour.

Jesus was a master of this art and he used it in all his dealings with people. He did not judge a man by what appeared on the surface but he looked also for the motivation.

Theft is only one of the violations of the laws of God. The examples are presented here in an attempt to throw some light on what motivates the actions of man in the realm of theft. The same sort of motivations can be found in the violation of all of the other Commandments. If the possibility of a theft were completely blocked in each of the above individuals, they would probably have reacted by committing some other crime or sin. The motivations were present and they have been expressed in some way. The way in which they were expressed would not be the important thing to us, but the motivation should be the prime source of concern. We must be chiefly concerned with what a man thinketh in his heart" and whether or not he is a "whitened sepulchre." Our fields of labor must always be centered in the motivations of man.





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When a man becomes sick he finds two kind of questions im-  
cit in his experience. Frequently these questions become explicit  
I verbalized. First, he wants to know what made him sick and how  
can get well. Then, if his illness is serious or if his pain is  
ense he faces a second kind of question -- why do I have to be sick  
way? Why pain? Why suffering? What is the meaning and purpose  
a life that involves suffering? Does this mean that I have sinned,  
t something is wrong for which I am being punished. If I die, what  
pens?

Today man asks the first question, what made me sick and how  
I get well, of the physician. The second question, that involving  
nature and meaning of life, he addresses to his minister. But It  
not always thus. There was a time in human history when he address-  
d the first question to the priest. In these days the priest and  
e medicine man were one and the same person. All illness was con-  
sidered to be due to religious causes and to be cured by religious means.

It would be interesting, but extraneous to our purpose, to  
trace the relationship in man's thinking between his religion and his  
health from early times down to the present. Let us look rather at  
what is happening today.

The doctor today no longer thinks of his patient as a body  
at might or might not have a soul. He is thinking of his patient as  
person, as an organism that has its physical side, but also its in-  
tellectual, its emotional and spiritual life. This person has to be  
properly related within himself. But that is only part. The organism  
lives within an environment. This environment greatly affects the life  
the organism, and the organism reacts to change its environment. So  
ose is the relation of the organism to its environment that it has  
en said that "the organism and environment are one." Health then  
comes a matter of two dynamic relationships, the relationship of the  
erson within himself and the relationship of the person with his  
environment. When that relationship is one of integration, when each  
art of the organism and environment are serving their proper function  
ward the welfare of the whole person, health is the result. When this  
relationship is one of conflict, or when some part of the person or of  
e environment is controlling the whole we have a condition of illness.

When the patient asks the doctor, what made me sick? The  
doctor may reply that a bacteria or a virus or an organic process is  
responsible for the illness. The doctor may perform an operation and  
correct the physical difficulty, only to find that the patient makes



very slow and irregular recovery. The minister, calling on the patient, finds her disturbed. She has lost all of her confidence in him, she says. She has also lost confidence in God. Her religion is gone. All she feels is a dread, an "unnamable dread" of the future. What has happened here? An experience on the physical level has shaken the emotional and religious structure of her personality. So a physical illness is never just a physical illness. It is an experience of the person as a whole, and may seriously disturb the religious center around which the personality had been previously integrated.

Again, the patient asks the doctor, What made me sick? In this case the doctor may say, in effect, you have this physical illness, this heart attack, this indigestion, this high blood pressure, because of anxieties or resentments or feelings of guilt that you have held in your mind. If you are to get well your way of life needs to be changed, some of your attitudes will have to be altered. An example of this is from a recent medical journal where a physician, speaking of mucous colitis wrote, "The colon expresses the individual's conflict in the world in which he lives. Somewhere in his struggle for existence or for power, the individual has encountered rebuffs. This results in a psychic conflict expressed as fear, worry, anxiety or other psychic states, conveyed to the sympathetic nervous system of the bowel, resulting in the derangement of the colon."

You recognize all of these statements as expression of the new point of view of psychosomatic medicine. It is not my purpose to discuss this highly illuminating and fruitful approach to illness as such. That is the task of a physician. It is my purpose to indicate the significance of the psychosomatic approach for religion, and for any discussion of the relationship between religion and illness. Here for the first time in human history we have a scientific foundation for the investigation of problems of religion and health which up to this time have been dealt with largely on the basis of intuitive insights. Some of these insights have been good, but being intuitive rather than scientific in their nature, they were not subject to checks and verification. Becoming the possession of persons whose zeal for religion overran their knowledge of life resulted in the development of pseudo-religious or pseudo-medical groups outside of the aegis of the church and of medicine.

Today the situation is different. The physician is answering his question of cause and cure in terms that involve religion. Thanks to the contribution of the psychosomatic group, or intuitive insights can be checked scientifically. This places a new responsibility on both medicine and the church. We can no longer go our separate ways even in a friendly manner. The welfare of the patient requires that we pool our resources and join together cooperatively, each group making its own unique contribution. As Dr. Rivers wrote some years ago, "One of the most striking results of modern developments of our knowledge concerning the influence of mental factors in disease is that





are bringing back medicine in some measure to that cooperation religion which existed in the early stages of human progress." A series of discussions is in itself evidence of this new cooperation. A specific problem today is the importance of diagnosing the past religious experience of the patient in relation to the present crisis illness. Let us begin with a clinical case record.

I was consulted one day by a man of about fifty years of age. He was an organist in a church. His problem was sharply defined. While he played the organ on Sunday mornings he had an almost uncontrollable impulse to jump out of a window in the organ loft. This was serious. Not only would he disturb the service by such actions, but he would fall on a cement sidewalk three floors below. He also had numerous physical symptoms, particularly pains in his back.

This man was a Christian Scientist and at that time he was playing the organ in a Christian Science church. In spite of that fact he readily agreed to a complete physical examination. The physician had nothing to explain his physical symptoms, except that he was obviously in a state of nervous tension.

Ordinarily I would send a person with such impulses to a psychiatrist. However, the basis for his trouble was very close to the surface, so close that he commenced to talk about it. He had been married for twenty-five years. His marriage was happy, except for one thing. His wife was an ardent Christian Scientist, and for fifteen years she had worked hard to convert him to her faith. However, he prided himself on being a "hard-shelled Baptist," and for fifteen years he resisted her efforts to convert him. They had numerous arguments about religion, and he developed considerable resentment against her tactics, which resentment he immediately repressed. Then one night he had a violent heart attack. In deference to his wishes his wife called his physician. The physician examined him, told him that there was nothing wrong with his heart, made light of his attack and left. This made him very angry at the physician. He still had the pain. He knew he was ill. The next day a Christian Science practitioner was called. He "treated" the patient and converted him to Christian Science.

For ten years this man enjoyed perfect health. However, he was not altogether sold on Christian Science. He found many things in which he did not agree. His comments disturbed his wife who felt the need for harmony in this matter. He was a skillful organist, and he seized the occasion to have him appointed to the position of organist in a Christian Science church. After about two years of this he suddenly developed an almost uncontrollable impulse to jump out of the window.

This rather dramatic situation points the problem. The physician who examined him the night he had a heart attack was undoubtedly correct in his diagnosis of the patient's physical condition. But there was no adequate religious diagnosis.



Let us take another situation of a different kind. I go to hospital to see a young woman who had given birth to a baby two days before. The baby had died twelve hours after birth. I had not had time to sit down in the patient's room before her physician entered, saying that he might want to talk to her alone. I started to leave. He asked me to stay. In less than two minutes he explained to her that an autopsy had shown that the cause of the baby's death was a certain condition, and that there was no indication that this would occur in any babies she might have in the future. Then he nodded to me and left the room. I caught his signal, and sat down. The young woman began to talk. She had been brought up in a church that had taught that such things were a punishment for sin. This belief was very strong in her. When she married she changed her church and entered one with quite different teachings. But she had been married only a few years. Her childhood religious attitudes were deeper than her more recently acquired attitudes. In her crisis the childhood attitudes came to the surface and controlled her thinking. Here was a situation in which a real religious diagnosis and treatment were imperative. I am sorry that I cannot give you the outcome of this, as I am just now in the middle of it. However, progress has been good and there is every reason to believe that there will be a satisfactory solution if I do my best.

What do situations like this teach us about the approach of the religious worker? How should he go about diagnosing and what are the results?

The first step in a religious approach concerns the orientation of the worker. What is he in the sick room to do? What is his purpose?

Perhaps all of you would not answer this question as I shall answer it. It is not my task to give an authoritative and final answer which is acceptable to all religious faiths. That is impossible. I do not regard it as my task that of thinking through one point of view with you.

Experience suggests that the basic attitude of the religious worker should be that of understanding what has happened to the person who is ill, and to help the person to an understanding of himself so far as he desires. This understanding is akin to the physician's practice of diagnosis. There is one difference which stems from an essential difference between the two professions. The physician's diagnoses are largely in terms of disease entities and processes. When a physician discovers that a patient has tuberculosis or appendicitis he immediately understands a great deal that has been going on in that patient's body. This is technical information and it is not necessary for him to pass it on to the patient. The situation with the minister is not quite the same. He has no set of spiritual disease entities by which he may diagnose an illness. He is dealing with a more intangible aspect of life. Furthermore, human beings are not able to accept direct



ments about their emotional and spiritual illnesses as they are physical illnesses. With some exceptions a patient may be told that he is failing him physically. But to say to a patient that he has too much hate in his heart, or that he is using prayer as a means of escape, or that his trouble is lack of faith is usually to invite rejection or even hostility, regardless of how accurate that statement may be. We are much more on the offensive about emotional and spiritual illness than we are about physical.

Therefore, the minister seeks to orient himself with understanding. He attempts to see into the experience of the sick person, not solely for the purpose of discovering weaknesses or sins, but in order to understand the person as a whole. Religion is concerned with the whole man, not just a segment of him. The spiritual life of a person is not a thing apart, but the center of the personality which radiates into all of its activities and expressions.

With this in mind the minister seeks to begin where the patient is. He tries to meet him on his own ground of experience, attitudes and feelings. His first endeavor is to establish a relationship of trust, confidence and security with the patient. He is not repelled by any bitterness, guilt or expression of rebellion. His sympathies are not unduly stimulated by an expression of suffering or loneliness, neither is he hard boiled. He seeks to identify himself with the patient sufficiently to feel the suffering involved, but to maintain that objectivity which comes through courage and affection rather than to respond with anxiety or resentment. He sees his task as that of helping the patient find a solution for his problem, not in committing himself personally to become part of the solution.

From the beginning the minister seeks to define his relationship as one in which the patient can unburden himself, can find gradual release from negative feelings and attitudes, can develop understanding and can then go on to find a sense of the presence of God with the resulting experience of inner peace. In all this he may succeed partially, but he will also try to learn from his mistakes and failures.

The minister proceeds by keeping the patient's attention centered on his present situation. He does not deliberately try to elicit a "religious history" of the patient. An objective religious history would be of help only to the clergyman, not to the patient. Indeed, attempting to get such a history might be damaging to the patient, as it might require him to give information that is more surcharged with emotion than his condition or his relation to the clergyman will stand. A trained clergyman knows he can do much harm by probing. He therefore allows the past religious experiences of the patient to emerge gradually along with an understanding, on the part of the patient, of their dynamic significance in his life. The primary interest of the clergyman is not in the past experiences as such, but in helping the





individual to find a creative orientation to their role in his present experience. Thus a patient facing surgery, for example, may wish to look back over some past experience which carries a burden of guilt or anxiety, and if this is properly handled he will gain a sense of peace and strength. Or, consider again the young woman who interpreted the death of her baby as punishment. Looking back over her past experience she immediately says that she must have sinned. But looking at her life as it is she says that she cannot see where she has done anything to merit such punishment. It is not enough to get an objective history of her past religious training. She must come to understand the significance of that training in the formation of her present attitudes, and to free herself from its crippling influence. It is a matter of dealing with emotions and attitudes, rather than merely intellectual beliefs.

Neither does the minister point the patient strongly to the future. If he is sensitive, he has learned that this can be very frightening or discouraging, especially when the patient is weak or fearful. If a person cannot handle successfully what he faces today, it is poor technique to bring up to him the problem of the future. If a patient spontaneously talks of the future, the religious worker seeks to catch his mood. Is the patient afraid, or eager? Is there dread, confusion perplexity or a feeling of confidence and certainty? These attitudes make a difference, but notice that they are present attitudes toward possible future experiences. They carry a deep potential for the future, but that potential is in what they do for the patient in the present. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, and the strength to meet the present crisis is what the minister seeks to bring to the patient.

The clergyman sees the crisis of illness as an opportunity for growth, for the deepening of the person's appreciation of life. In so far as illness is a crisis it has to be this, for the crisis consists in the fact that various elements of the total personality become disintegrated and immobilized in an experience with which the patient is unable to cope. The grasp of a purpose or meaning in life weakens or crumbles. Restoration to health as a whole person means that this must be rebuilt. Freedom can it be rebuilt on the old basis. The old is gone and the new life has to be put into new meanings and forms. This means growth. On the other hand, we must recognize that there are some few persons whose personal integration and religious maturity are so strong that even a severe physical illness is no major crisis to them. Occasionally the clergyman finds himself going from the presence of such a person with a feeling that he has been ministered to, instead of having ministered.

In all of this there is a distinct difference between the minister and the physician or nurse. Much of the approach of the physician consists of things he does to the patient. Of course, the



patient must have faith in the physician, but this faith is largely in the physician's ability to do the right things. Medical treatment consists largely in what is done to the patient. The patient does not have to understand the whys and wherefores of treatment. Indeed, it is usually better if he does not know all of the technicalities. All he has to do is to accept it cooperatively.

Not so with the religious worker. He has little to do to the patient. But he has a great deal to do with the patient. Indeed, he can do nothing without the full conscious participation of the patient. Passive cooperation is not enough in religion. Active participation is necessary. Indeed, strictly speaking, the contribution of the religious worker is in what he helps the patient to do for himself. The minister often suffers in comparison with the physician, because the question is put, what can the clergyman or religion do for the patient. And when the clergyman tries to do for or to the patient he usually finds himself either engrossed in a maze of difficulties or completely impotent. But when he asks, Can I be something to this patient which in turn will help the patient be something more within himself and do something more for himself, he is on the road to making a real contribution.

The task of the clergyman is to offer the patient a relationship which will make it possible for the patient to grow, to become something more than he is now, to change his own attitudes and beliefs, where they need changing. The clergyman can offer the patient a relationship through which there comes a release of fear, guilt or hate. He can offer a relationship through which the patient can find new strength in another human being, and through the minister new strength in God. The minister's orientation is not only in the person who is ill, it is beyond that person to God as he is in Christ. But it is a mistaken approach for the minister to feel that he can bring his conception of God to the sick person. Thus a woman who felt her illness was punishment from God was told by a minister that this could not possibly be true. "Why," said the minister, "I would not serve a God like that!" The woman told me later that this left her flat, she did not care what kind of a God that minister would or could not serve, she had to deal with her own God. However, and here is the real point, the skillful clergyman can bring the sick person to God. This is much more than a mere difference of words. It involves helping the patient to discover and change inner attitudes and feelings which are a barrier between himself and God, and to open the channel of affection and faith so that the grace of God can flow freely into the soul of the patient. In this profound drama the clergyman is an understanding person, and one who symbolizes God's love and mercy, who walks along a little way until the patient opens his own heart to God. Most of us fail because we want to occupy too large a place in the scheme of salvation, not the humble place of the servant of both God and man.





What are some of the things we learn from this approach? The thing is the necessity of understanding the function that religion serves and is serving in the life of the person concerned. It is not enough to know that a patient has been a Methodist, or a Presbyterian or a Catholic all of his life. Much more important is the way he has taken the teachings and experiences of his religion into his personality and what he has allowed his religion to do to him. The same question must be asked in regard to a person who has had a fundamentalist or a modernist background. In dealing with a sick person it is not enough to know what he has believed; we must also seek an understanding of the function that his beliefs have played in his life.

It is well, here, to make a distinction between the function and structure of religion. By structure we mean the forms in which religious attitudes and feelings have found expression. These forms consist largely of verbal formulations and of activities. In beliefs and actions inner attitudes become crystallized. Around verbal symbols, such as a creed, a verse of scripture, a theological belief, personality becomes organized with a greater or less degree of integration. Through action, worship, prayer, giving money, service to others, wishes, desires and impulses find expression, elaboration and organization. In order to understand the present religious experience of the patient we must see how it was structuralized in belief and activity, and also what functions in terms of attitudes, feelings and patterns of living are expressed in that structure.

The point to all of this is that the religious worker needs to orient himself as quickly as possible to the religion of the patient, especially in regard to the healthy or unhealthy aspects of his religion. The average patient has not thought too deeply about his religion. Even if he has thought about it, his thinking was probably stronger at the point of rationalizing his faith than inquiring into its actual function in his life. Most of us take our own religion pretty naively, regardless of whatever powers of criticism or insight we use on the religion of another. If the minister's orientation in the sick room is not upon the function of religion in the life of the patient, then whatever help he is to the patient will be purely coincidental. The clergyman needs the kind of objectivity which comes from understanding the function of religion in persons, particularly in the person with whom he is dealing. In other words, the person must be the central focus of attention.

More specifically, what are some of the functions that a person's religion may serve?

One function has to do with the very things we have been stressing throughout this lecture, namely understanding. The verbal symbols of Christianity and its acts of worship and prayer are power-



means of gaining insight into oneself, and into the nature, purpose and meaning of life. The idea of the Incarnation, God in Christ, for example, is itself a light which illumines many of the mysteries of existence. Christian truth contains basic insights into the fundamental nature of man, his relation to his fellow men and to God, and to the purpose in life. Many a Christian has found in his religion an experience that has enabled him to say, "whereas I was once blind, now I see."

But whether he finds this or not depends on his deepest desire. If his religion is guided by a will to know, then it will become a source of insight and understanding. If, on the other hand, religion is controlled by a desire not to know, then concealment and evasion will take place. The person will hide unpleasant and painful things behind symbols. He will take refuge in words and actions, the meaning of which he does not allow himself to be aware. Religious structure, the belief in God for example, may serve either the function of insight and understanding, or it may serve the function of evasion and concealment. If it served the former, religion will function to achieve new and deeper integration of personality and to promote growth of body and mind. If it serves the latter, religion will promote the processes of illnesses, it will cover over an unhealthy situation, it will give a false sense of peace. Here is a point that diagnosis is needed, skillful diagnosis. Let me repeat however, that it is a very poor technique to tell a patient, "You are using your religion as a means of concealment, rather than a means of insight." The patient's understanding of this must be a growing experience, accomplished by a deepening relationship with the clergyman from which the patient will draw sufficient strength for facing what he cannot face

Let us consider another function of religion before we go on to one of our cases to point up what we are saying. Through religious symbols and structure man defines his relationship to himself, to other people and to God. Broadly speaking, there are three possible relationships. One is that of escape, another is that of rebellion, and the third I like to call cooperation. The way of escape is that of the infantile person, who fearing life or some aspect of it turns to some form of childish behavior. It is the way of the psychotic and the neurotic. The way of rebellion is typical of the adolescent, and it is also strong in childhood. It is the way of the criminal, the delinquent, the destroyer of society. It is chiefly symbolized in the religion by Satan. The way of cooperation is the way of the emotionally mature adult. It is based on a process of deepening insight into the nature and meaning of life, and the ability to mold one's life on the basis of that insight. It involves the willingness to relate oneself to the universe and to life, not the universe to oneself. It involves the ability to gain freedom to cooperate spontaneously on in-



ingly higher levels of insight through obedience to insights which have today.

The significant thing for us here is that either of these attitudes may be expressed through the same religious symbols. A person may talk a great deal about God, but only as a way of escape from problems of the moment. Many sick people want God to miraculously get them out of their suffering. On the other hand, much rebellion is expressed in and through religion. Many people rebel against God on the one hand while covering that rebellion up with a desire to praise God on the other hand.

Let me sharpen this by contrasting illustrations. I knew a young woman once who claimed that she was the "Pivotal point of the universe." She was center and top. Everything else revolved around her. That is escape, that is the little ego, unable to endure its suffering, inflated to cosmic proportions, seeing to relate the whole universe to itself. The result is illness, incurable illness. But contrast that with Jesus in Gethsamene, "Father, Thy will, not mine, be done." Here is cooperation. Here is deep insight into the nature and purpose of life based on reality and truth. Because Jesus reached the pinnacle of spiritual maturity He is able to help others reach it.

Now let us go back to our original cases. The man who had the heart attack certainly was in conflict. The conflict involved his past religious training, his present religious attitudes, his relationship to his wife, his resentment against her endeavors to convert him. He both loved and hated her, but having a strict conscience about himself, he repressed it. The religious structure of his life was strong enough to permit him to carry on this struggle for fifteen years. But it did not lead him to deeper insight and understanding, it did not help him to handle his resentments creatively. Through religion he concealed a great deal from his own awareness. He then had to take the path of escape through illness. He could not cooperate, he could not willingly become a Christian Scientist nor peacefully remain a Baptist. He could not relate himself creatively to the truth as he saw it. The whole drama was crystallized in his heart attack. The physician unwittingly played the part that the patient unconsciously wanted him to play and certainly that his wife wanted played. I have often wondered what would have happened had the physician raised the question of the patient's religious life. My guess is that the patient would have become disturbed and would have probably informed the physician that he was missing the point. Many illnesses have a deep purpose, and attempts to run counter to that purpose fail. The patient, however, thinks in opposite terms consciously. Here religion is used as escape, as it was in his life. His conversion concealed the real conflict and through Christian Science he escaped from his heart attack. Let us not be too hard on the Christian Scientists, however, because this sort of





ing can and does happen with every sect and creed. But let us not as another point. The patient escaped from his heart attack by giving his religion, but he also embarked on the path to a more serious illness which expressed itself in the impulse to destroy himself jumping out of the church window.

Consider again the young woman who feels guilty about the loss of her baby. Her attitude is different. She cannot understand, she wants to understand. She talks freely, she brings up her past religious experience, she speaks of her present way of life, she seeks relief, she sees that her feelings and ideas and experiences do not make sense, that there is no pattern in them that gives her a clear way of life for the future. She says, "I want to go into this thing. When I am physically strong enough I want to come to your office. I need help." With those attitudes help can be given and this tragic experience can become a means of personal growth and deepening of religious insight and living.

Not all religion is healthy. Some is very unhealthy. Sometimes this unhealthy religion expresses itself by a deep sense of overdependence on God with a resulting failure to assume responsibility for oneself. Sometimes it finds expression in compulsive religious acts -- acts which must be done or the person will be inwardly disturbed, anxious, guilty. Healthy religion is not compulsive, it is compelling. A compelling quality comes in the joy and peace which is the quest for the true religious life, even though its pathway is through suffering. For the joy that was set before Him, not because of fear or guilt, Jesus endured the cross, despised shame and triumphed over forces which threaten to destroy every one of us. Unhealthy religion again tends to overemphasize one aspect or personality to the neglect of other aspects. It overemphasizes the intellect, or the feelings, or the will. It overemphasizes sin, or guilt, or creed, or action. Healthy religion is balanced, it produces wholeness. It brings all aspects of experience into their proper relationship with each other and with the whole of life.

One more observation. Religion in the sick room is not a magic panacea, able to cure anything and everything, though many of us would like to make it that. The healing forces of religion operate by laws just as definitely as do the healing forces with which the physician works. The physician meets cases in which he says, gravely, "this is inoperable, or this is incurable. The processes of illness have gone so far that they cannot be reversed, the blood vessel has been constricted so long that it has become hardened. In some way the physical structure of life has become ill and irreversible. It cannot be returned to its former healthy condition.

The religious structure of life may suffer the same fate. We Christians like to think of the grace of God as being equal to any



human need. And so it is when individuals are able to open their life to the influence of the grace of God. But religious structure gets hardened, crystallized, inoperable, incurable. The old prophet knew his -- "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found." Now the Lord may always be found, but a person's religious life may function so long in the direction of escape from God, that the person is unable to reverse himself and move in the direction of finding God. Jesus spoke of people who had eyes but could not see, ears but could not hear, whose hearts were hardened to new insight and who therefore could not move to new levels of cooperation and integration. The clergyman in the sick room needs to sense when he is dealing with a religious structure which is so fixed, inflexible and rigid that it is inoperable. Any direct attack on this will make the patient worse and defeat the real purposes of religion in the end.

Does religion have any place in the sick room? If there is any place where the religion of Jesus belongs more than another it is in the sick room. But that place needs to be **clearly** understood. The religious worker needs a deep orientation and insight. Let no one take this work lightly, nor feel that he has accomplished a deep purpose by the saying of a few prayers. The forces with which religion deals are the central forces of life. On the one hand, they are forces which are life-defeating and on the other hand, they are forces which are life-giving. From the spiritual center of the person come those laws by which his life in all other aspects operate, either for illness or for health. Before these profound forces the clergyman must stand in humility. He cannot control them, nor manipulate them. They are beyond him, but slowly and surely working out the eternal destiny of the individual. But he can create, with some people, conditions through which the life-creating forces can overcome and master the life-defeating forces. But he does not do this, neither does religion as such do it to the person. For in this deep matter religion is the individual's relationship to God, as that relationship is experienced and lived out at the very center of his being. That relationship may be such that the door is closed to the grace of God, and if so, life-destroying forces will predominate in the person's experience. Or that relationship may be such that the door is opened to the grace of God, and if so, life creating forces will be released.

In the spirit of Christ on the Cross, the pastor drains off into his own person the sins and suffering, the anxiety, bitterness and guilt of others. But he does not pass this back nor pass it on. He rather seeks to break the vicious circle, and release that faith and love which is capable of transforming life. If he is honest, he cannot go far in the sharing of suffering without becoming painfully aware of his own inner need. Before he can help another open his heart to God, the minister must have opened his own heart. Before he can help another find wholeness and peace, he must have found it himself. Any





of us, standing by a sick bed or dealing with a sufferer in an office  
in our church, saying to them, "Wouldst thou be made whole," must also  
hear the other challenge, "Physician, heal thyself."



# SOME INDICATIONS FOR REFERRAL TO THE HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In keeping with the policy of the Journal to present pastoral problems which need further consideration, this article is published to initiate the discussion and the sharing of insights relative to the matter of referral. Specific accounts of the experiences of both parish clergy and hospital chaplains are needed to clarify the referral process in relation to other professions.

The Chapel phone rings. "Chaplain, this is Dr. Johnson. I am treating a young man in E Ward who has depressive tendencies. This morning he is concerned over the fact that he attended a movie yesterday, and he thinks this was sinful. I am working from the angle of why it should mean this to him, but I believe that some definite teachings from the chaplain are also in order. He says he will be glad to talk with you. Is this the kind of problem with which you chaplains deal?"

When should patients be referred to the hospital chaplain? Generally, the answer to this question depends upon the attitude of the individual staff member toward religion.

At Winter Veterans Administration Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, where 100 resident physicians are enrolled in the three-year course of the Menninger Foundation School of Psychiatry and approximately fifteen other psychiatric training programs are in operation in such fields as nursing, clinical psychology, and many adjunctive therapies, it is inevitable that the spirit of inquiry should at times focus on questions of religious significance and the work of the chaplain. Out of conversations with students and faculty members the following preliminary criteria were developed and distributed:

1. When there are indications of a desire to talk with a minister or a priest. The point of contact selected by the individual's own expressed interests often furnishes a basis for better understanding and constructive endeavor. Some individuals, if left to their own initiative, may postpone such a contact unless it is conveniently arranged.

2. When there are indications of a need for religious information and/or ethical instruction. Mis-information and lack of useful knowledge about religious matters is very widespread in the general population.

3. When a needed social relationship, a sense of "belonging", might be developed through a religious group. This may apply



within the religious activities of the hospital or in arranging plans for return to the community, or both.

4. When there is definite religious involvement in a sense of guilt. In all the criteria it is essential that the doctor in charge and the chaplain work in cooperation. Here, it is well to exercise the most careful consideration for mutual understanding.

5. When there is a prominent history of religious activity and/or study.

6. As soon as a patient is placed on the "Seriously Ill" list. This is done routinely. When a religious factor has been noted by the medical or psychiatric service, it is helpful to the chaplain to have this information in addition to learning about the patient's awareness and attitude with reference to his condition.

After three months' use of these criteria it is still too early to draw conclusions on their ultimate usefulness and comprehensiveness. Many others have been considered which involve the use of more technical theological concepts, but it has been felt that the basic approach should be from the point of view of the other hospital workers. Many of the experiences of the chaplains with situations involving each criterion of the original list are summarized in the next paragraphs.

1. POINT OF CONTACT, FROM PATIENT'S OWN DESIRE. Most situations in this area center around the role of the chaplain as confessor, obligated to keep confidences. Patients have confessed acts and desires contrary to moral codes such as homosexual experiences, marital infidelities, desires to murder a member of the family, and the like, sometimes asking if such problems are the cause of the illness or of the institutionalization. Fairly frequent also have been strong expressions of resentment against a course of treatment or against their psychotherapist. In all of these situations it has been felt that the matter discussed had a direct bearing upon the course of therapy. In almost every instance it was possible to guide the confidence of the patient toward a discussion of the problem with the psychotherapist. This has been done by talking over with the patient the religious virtues of honesty and sincerity and giving him reassurance that his therapist wants to help him deal with just such problems as these. The religious aspect of these situations has been handled by the chaplain concerned with varying degrees of active response, beginning with listening and helping the patient to talk out the matter to his own conclusion, and extending as far as offering considerable additional help in terms of God's desire to forgive and to support the person in a way of life which brings spiritual strength.

2. NEED FOR INSTRUCTION. Significant referrals in this area have fallen into two general groups. In one, the patient feels that





the teachings of his religious background are opposed to some element involved in his therapy. Chaplains have secured information which shows both to the patient and to his therapist that the point of emphasis is not always a necessary one, or the approach has been an effort to re-interpret some teachings to indicate that the conflict is not inevitable. Acceptance of these efforts has varied from excellent to poor. Most difficult are the situations in which the present religious connections of the patient are openly antagonistic to his treatment or its implications, but these are few. Where a small, extreme and aggressive type of sect is involved the chaplain is limited in his usefulness. He is not authorized to convert the patient to another belief and would be unwise to attempt it. Moreover, his position as a religious leader is easily called into question by a member of such a sect, and he is not likely to be invited into the situation as an active agent. The other group which comes under this general heading is characterized by very little religious background coupled with an attitude of cynicism and disillusionment. Typical is the avowed atheist who cites war experiences as proof that there is no God, and who is eager to talk with a chaplain about this at almost every opportunity. The basic approach has been that of friendliness, respect for his convictions, and repeated visits for ample discussion, plus suggestions of appropriate reading matter when there is a real desire for study on the part of the patient.

3. NEEDED SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP. Most of the problems in this direction have involved persons uprooted by war and post-war experiences, and a cooperative relationship with social service has made possible the planning of church contacts prior to discharge from the hospital. This has been done largely within the local area, depending upon the chaplain's knowledge of churches and pastors in the vicinity.

4. RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT IN A SENSE OF GUILT. This overlaps with the first criterion discussed only in the case of those whose guilt has led to their request to see a chaplain. Others have been seen through referrals not requested by the patient, and in most of these the approach has been much the same as in the instances of guilt already mentioned. One differentiating factor has been retardation of the individual in a depression which might account for his lack of spontaneity in asking to see a chaplain. Individual and group sacramental occasions have been arranged, with varied results. It is felt that the real results may not be apparent within a brief period of time.

5. PROMINENT HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS INTEREST. This group also overlaps into others, but there is a differential in those instances where the premorbid history showed activity, and the illness is accompanied by a loss of interest. Conversations with patients have brought out their own account of religious activity with a further expression to the chaplain of their intention to resume this, seeking to recapture the benefits which they found before. Sometimes it is possible to en-



rage a more versatile religious life, under so favorable response. Other individuals the loss of religious interest has come from an attitude that God's favor is in direct proportion to their own comfort and prosperity. The Santa Claus God deserted them during military or other hardships. At present, it appears to be a long hard pull to bring help to most of these. Working in close cooperation with their psychiatrist it is well to watch for openings, and such efforts are continuing with the hope that a more adequate religious attitude may be developed along with the general improvement in the patient's condition.

6. SERIOUSLY AND CRITICALLY ILL. In this area it can only be said that there is an almost endless variety of reactions. There has been little psychiatric research into the mental attitudes of moribund patients, and this would be a valuable study for the cooperative effort of the clergy and the psychiatrist. Sometimes a patient is well aware of his danger, and at other times it has been felt that he should be led to think that he is in danger. The chaplain, working with the circumstances of a given case, has endeavored to give the most appropriate religious help.

It should be added that in all of the situations listed there has been repeated contact with the psychiatrist, physician, case worker, or other referring agent. One of the outstanding contributions of the new criteria has been toward the development of exceptionally good cooperative relationships between the chaplain and other staff members.

Further weighing of the demands upon the chaplains has revealed a large area which the original criteria overlooked: that of ministering to the families of patients, interpreting to them the program of the hospital and the religious significance of many of the therapeutic efforts which are made for patients, helping them to be patient during critical periods in the illness when they can only await the outcome, ministering to them in times of bereavement.

The principal reason for this presentation in print is a hope that criticisms and suggestions will be made by other chaplains, toward the end that chaplains may help other staff members to make the best use of religious resources.





SCRIPTIONS: THE JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PASTORAL WORK is published by the Council for Clinical Training, Inc., 2 East Street, New York 10, N. Y. All correspondence relating to subscriptions should be directed to this office. Subscription price \$2.00.

EDITORIAL MATTERS: All correspondence regarding editorial matters should be addressed to Robert D. Morris, Editor-in-Chief, Episcopal Hospital, Front Street and Lehigh Avenue, Philadelphia 25, Pennsylvania.

MANUSCRIPTS: All manuscripts should be typewritten in double spacing on one side of paper 8½ x 11 inches; and mailed flat. It is preferred that manuscripts be submitted in duplicate.

Bibliographical references will be listed alphabetically at the end of the papers, and numbered serially.

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